

1. Name: Elizabeth's Delight

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 37/5*

3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference:*(not on
Atlas)

Address: 1006 Ruatan Street, Silver Spring

5. Classification Summary

Category building

Ownership private

Public Acquisition NA

Status occupied

Accessible no

Present use private residence

Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC

Title and Date: Inventory of Historical
Sites - 1976

Federal State X County X Local

6. Date: c. 1850's

7. Original Owner: Pearce family

8. Apparent Condition

a. good b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This six bay by five bay, two and a half story house has a frame (east) section and a brick (west) section; it faces south. The east section is the oldest; it is now covered by white clapboarding. The west wing was built to serve as a chapel. The house has six-over-six double-hung windows. There is a two story bay window at the east side of the south elevation and an eighteen light bowed window at the southwest corner of the same elevation. West wing windows are paired six-light casement windows. The house has a gable roof with slate shingles.

10. Significance: Elizabeth's Delight, in the southwestern corner of Montgomery County, stands on an important early land grant and is an example of the durability and adaptiveness of well-constructed houses of a century ago. "Elizabeth's Delight" received its name from a land grant made to William and Elizabeth Diggs from Lord Baltimore in 1688; it was the second land grant made in what later was to become Montgomery County. The 1783 assessment records show a log dwelling house which belonged to Henry C. Pearce, but it is thought that by the mid-19th c. the Pearce family had replaced the early log cabin with a grander frame structure -- the nucleus of today's much-expanded house. The property remained in the Pierce (Pearce) family until 1865. Charles Gilmore purchased the house and 183½ acres in 1874, but sold it to Otis Bigelow in 1885. Both Gilmore and Bigelow made substantial improvements on the house and by the time Bigelow died in 1919, it probably possessed its present appearance. Since then, the property has passed through a number of hands; most of the land surrounding the house was sold to a real estate developer in the early 1950's. The house was owned for a time by the Catholic Church and used as a chapel.

Researcher and date researched: Kevin Parker - 12/78

Candy Reed
Arch. Description

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled: 2/79

14. Designation
Approval

15. Acreage: 26,238 sq. ft.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 37/5*
MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

"Elizabeth's Delight"

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1006 Ruatan Street

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

—YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. John E. Davenport

Telephone #: 301-434-0682

STREET & NUMBER

1006 Ruatan Street

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20901

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 4155

Folio #: 621

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

* New Number

7 DESCRIPTION

M:37-5

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This six bay by five bay, two and a half story house faces south.

Built on stone foundations which have been reinforced by poured concrete this house was built in several sections. The interior has been so thoroughly altered as to make it extremely difficult to identify the order in which additions were made. The east section contains the original Elizabeth's Delight; it is a frame structure covered by white clapboarding and is three bays by three bays. The west section was added later. It is common bonded brick (painted white) and is three bays across. The south (front) porch has a flat roof and is enclosed by a multi-paned entry. Two brick steps lead up to the broken pedimented, wooden paneled door set into a paneled door recess. The west brick wing has a French door at the extreme west end which opens out onto the south terrace.

The house has six over six double hung windows. On the east side of the south elevation there is a two story bay window. At the first level, this bay is composed of a ten over ten double hung window flanked by six over six double hung windows. Also on the south elevation, at the west corner of the original frame section, there is an unusual eighteen light bowed window. West wing windows are paired six-light casement windows. There are three six over six double hung gabled dormer windows above the east and west sections on the south elevation (this makes a total of six dormers on the south elevation).

The house has two gable roofs: the west wing roof is lower than the east section. The roofs have slate covering. There are three chimneys: two interior chimneys and one exterior end chimney at the west end of the west wing.

This house was altered considerably during the time (1940s) it was used as a retreat and church. However, the south (front) door in the east section opens into a hall. Ascending along the east and north interior walls is an open string, double run staircase. This staircase has a curved handrail and tapered balusters. To the east of the hall is a large dining room. North of the dining room is a utility room and kitchen. West of the hall is the living room. North of the hall is a room which once served as a confessional. This has now been converted into a bath and office: however, the confessional screen between the office and a closet still remains. West of these rooms was a chapel. The chapel has been broken down into two rooms. The extreme west room is used as a family room and the middle room, where once an altar stood, is now used for storage.

The random width pegged floors are covered, in the hall, dining room and kitchen, by rungs or lineolium. The east section has plaster over lath walls and ceilings; the west section has plaster board walls. There are molded door frames and wooden paneled doors. The cellar has a flagstone floor.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES C. 1850's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Elizabeth's Delight," in the southwestern corner of Montgomery County, received its name from a land grant made to William and Elizabeth Digges from Lord Baltimore in 1688; it was the second land grant made in what was later to become Montgomery County. The property passed from William to his son Nicholas,¹ who died before reaching his majority. It then went with 1,000 acres to William's daughter Jane and her husband Notley Rozier.² According to the 1783 assessment records for Montgomery County, a "log dwelling house" appeared on the land which at this time belonged to Henry C. Pearce, the nephew of Benjamin Notley Pearce of Georgetown.

It is thought that the Pearce family during the mid-19th century replaced the early log cabin with a grander frame house. The Pearces were not poor -- they owned slaves and educated their children.

The property remained in the hands of the Pierce (a spelling change ad occurred over the years) family until 1865 when it became the subject of an equity hearing upon the death of Henry's heirless son William.³

Charles Gilmore purchased it with 183½ acres in 1874;⁴ However, because of financial difficulties, he was forced to sell it to Otis Bigelow in 1885.⁵ Bigelow (1832-1919) was a lawyer, businessman, teacher and banker; his last ventures in Washington, D.C. were sufficiently successful to enable him to retire in 1885. He traveled the world and then spent the remainder of his life on "Elizabeth's Delight". Both Bigelow and Gilmore made substantial improvements on the house,⁶ and by the time Bigelow died in 1919, it probably possessed its present appearance.

Since Mr. Bigelow's death, the property has passed through the hands of a number of different owners, with most of the land surrounding the house being sold to a real estate developer in the early 1950's.⁷ It was owned for a time by the Catholic Church, which used it as a chapel.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Maryland Calendar of Wills, Vol II, Will of Williams Digges of Charles County, dated September 19, 1695; July 24, 1697.
2. Ibid., p. 9 - Will of Edward Digges, Prince George's County, dated April 10, 1774; April 19, 1774.
3. Judgment Records of Montgomery County, Md., EBP 4/410.
4. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., EBP 12/278.
5. Ibid., EBP 35/91 (1885); JA 9/291 (1888).
6. Montgomery County Tax Assessment Records (1883-6; 1886-95).
7. Land Records, Op. Cit., Plat Book 42/3048.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Assessment Records: (1783-1898, 5th district)
(1908-1923, 13th district)

Montgomery County, Abstract Of Wills, 1776-1825.

Voarhess, Lesley E., Bigelow Family of Baldwinsville, NY, unpublished compilation.

Maps: 1865, 1878, 1894.

Baldwin, Jane, Maryland Calendar of Wills (Kohn and Pollock, Balt., 1906)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 26,238 sq. ft.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Part of Parcel A & Lot 26, Block X, "New Hampshire Estates"

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kevin Parker

Candy Reed

Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

December 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~
~~The Shaw House, 21 State Circle~~
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~
~~(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
Box 87, Stronghold
Dickerson, Md. 20753
(301) 926-4510

Otis Bigelow, Jr., son of Judge Otis Bigelow and Mary Payn.

b. March 9, 1832 in Baldwinsville, Onondaga County, N. Y.

d. April 15, 1919 at his farm in Montgomery County, Maryland

m. 1st, October 1, 1862 at Fort Miller, Washington County, N. Y.,

Margaret Payne, daughter of Daniel Taylor Payne and Julia Abigail Jakway.

b. March 30, 1837 at Fort Miller, N. Y.

d. December 10, 1865 at Baldwinsville, N. Y.

m. 2nd; June 9, 1868 at Elizabeth, N. J., by the Rev. Samuel A. Clark, D.D.

Mary Raymond Arms, daughter of Roger Newton Arms and Lucretia Jane Taylor.

b. December 22, 1840 in Lyons, Wayne County, N. Y.

d. August 29, 1913 at the farm "Elizabeth's Delight", in Maryland.

Had three children: two by first wife and one by second wife.

1. Robert Payne, b. July 10, 1863 in Baldwinsville, N. Y. d. September 6, 1955, in Boston, Mass. m. November 9, 1911 Caroline Evans Chase.

2. Son, b. Baldwinsville. d. September 21, 1865 age 10 days.

3. Mary Arms (Mab), b. April 10, 1869 in Washington, D. C. d. June 24, 1946, in Washington D. C. m. August 11, 1939 Austin Lawrence Nilon.

"Otis Bigelow attended a "school for gentlemen's sons" at Ballston Spa, N. Y. He was graduated LL.B at the New York and National Law School, Poughkeepsie in August, 1858, and passed the Bar examination and was admitted to practice in the State of New York in December of the same year. At some time he taught school in Baldwinsville. He also established an ax factory there and traveled about the country to sell its products. His partner proved to be unsatisfactory and the enterprise was abandoned. During the Civil War he visited troops in the field as an agent of the Sanitary Commission. Soon after the death of his first wife he left his son, Robert Payne, with his grandparents and his Aunt Sarah at Fort Miller and made a two year tour of Europe and the Near East. In Paris he presented a letter of introduction from Miss Bissell of Geneva, N. Y. to Miss Arms, then teaching in Paris. Soon after their marriage they settled in Washington, D. C. The law being uncongenial, he put out a sign, "Otis Bigelow, Banker" at 601 7th Street. This was seen by B. F. Franklin, who had known his father, and the resulting firm of Bigelow and Benjamin" did a successful business until Mr. Benjamin died. Then C. L. Du Bois became his partner, and their firm was Otis Bigelow and Company. Mr. Bigelow retired about 1885 and in 1888-1889 made a trip around the World, visiting Japan and India, and after that he lived quietly on his farm in Maryland." This farm was called "Elizabeth's Delight" and was a charming spot near Silver Spring, just outside of Washington, D. C. in Montgomery County.

from: "Bigelow Family of Baldwinsville, N. Y." compiled by Miss Lesley E. Voarhees
of Baldwinsville, N. Y.

typewritten pages -- Local History and Genealogy Room, Onondaga County Public Library

M:27-5

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Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

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Account Identifier: District - 13 Account Number - 01502710

Owner Information

Owner Name: DAVENPORT, JOHN E & B J Use: RESIDENTIAL
Principal Residence: YES
Mailing Address: 1006 RUATAN ST Deed Reference: 1) / 4155/ 621
SILVER SPRING MD 20903 2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address Zoning Legal Description
1006 RUATAN ST R40 PT PAR A NEW HAMPSHI
SILVER SPRING 20903 RE ESTS

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:
JN63				43				80	Plat Ref:
Special Tax Areas			Town Ad Valorem Tax Class	38					
Primary Structure Built			Enclosed Area	Property Land Area			County Use		
1868			4,692 SF	26,238.00 SF			111		
Stories		Basement		Type			Exterior		
2		NO		STANDARD UNIT			FRAME		

Value Information

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2001	Phase-In Assessments As Of 07/01/2002	As Of 07/01/2003
Land:	47,610	47,610		
Improvements:	187,120	197,660		
Total:	234,730	245,270	241,756	245,270
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

Seller: Date: 12/07/1971 Price: \$40,000
Type: IMPROVED ARMS-LENGTH Deed1: / 4155/ 621 Deed2:
Seller: Date: Price:
Type: Deed1: Deed2:
Seller: Date: Price:
Type: Deed1: Deed2:

Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2002	07/01/2003
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

Tax Exempt: NO
Exempt Class:

Special Tax Recapture:

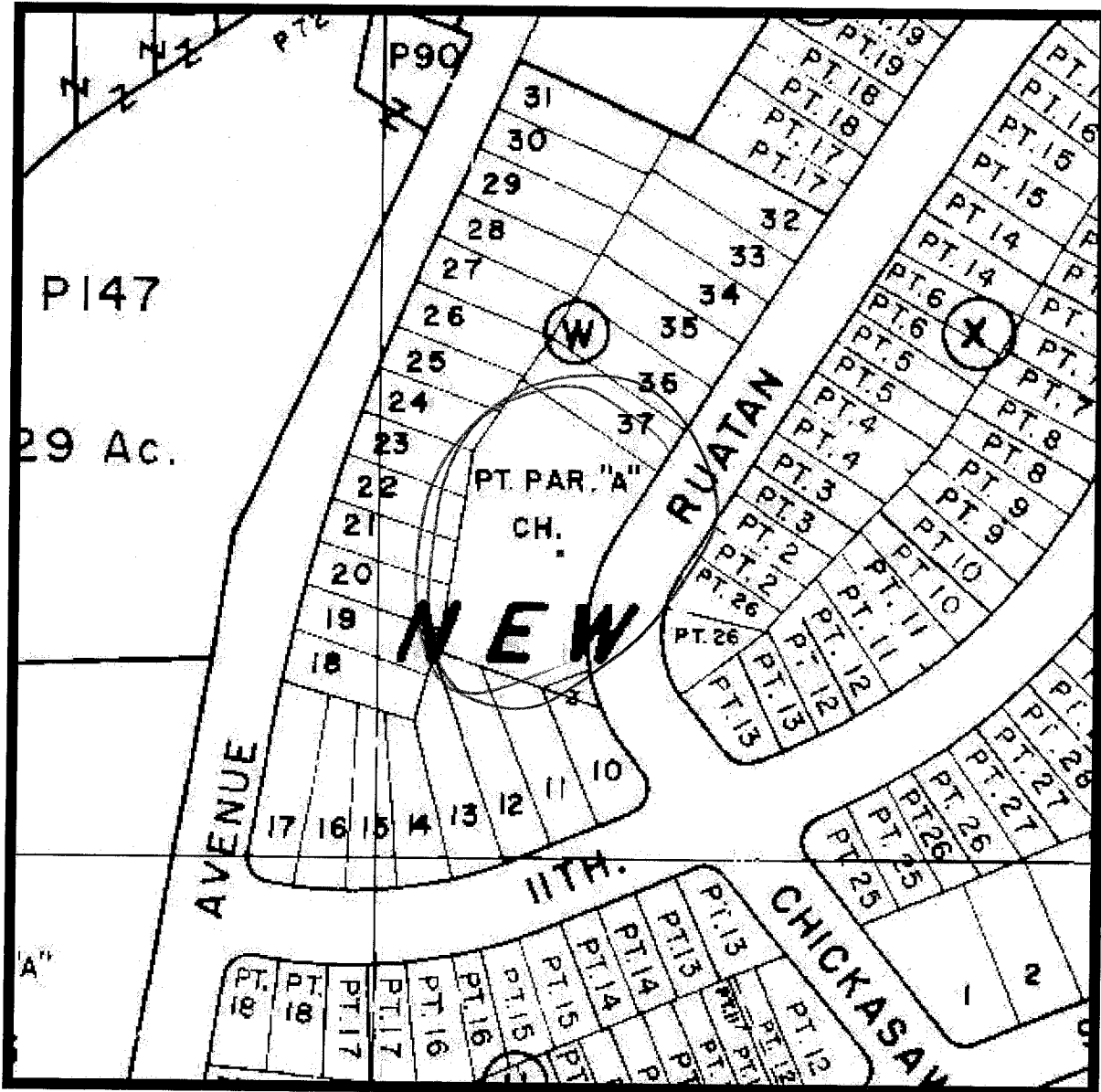
* NONE *



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District - 13 Account Number - 01502710



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For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning
web site at www.mdp.state.md.us

M: 37-5
Elizabeth's Delight
1006 Ruatan Street, Silver Spring
Washington East Quadrangle



M: 37-5

Tax parcel over color arial photo



M: 37-5



Front Elevation



Side Showing Back Extension



Addition